



Police Department

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MILWAUKEE POLICE GATHER CRASH DATA FROM AUTOS

A new device will enhance the ability of Milwaukee Police to investigate vehicle crashes and to retrieve data right from the vehicle's air bag module.

Progressive and Acuity Insurance Companies have donated a Crash Data Retrieval System to the Milwaukee Police Department. The device will be used by Milwaukee Police Accident Reconstruction officers to help determine the factors that may have caused a crash.

Data is retrieved from a vehicle's air bag module and is then transferred to a laptop computer. The device can read vehicle speed, engine speed, brake status, state of driver's seat belt switch, and time from impact to air bag deployment.

The system will help investigators uncover the status of a vehicle just prior to a crash and the actual crash data itself, leading them to solve the mysteries behind those incidents. Capturing crash data can influence driver behavior and it provides objective and specific information on crashworthiness issues leading to improved vehicle design.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration estimates that 65 to 90 percent of model year 2004 passenger vehicles have some data recording capability.

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